

LOUISVILLE, KY.
COURIER-JOURNAL

M - 223,511
S - 327,601

SEP 17 1965

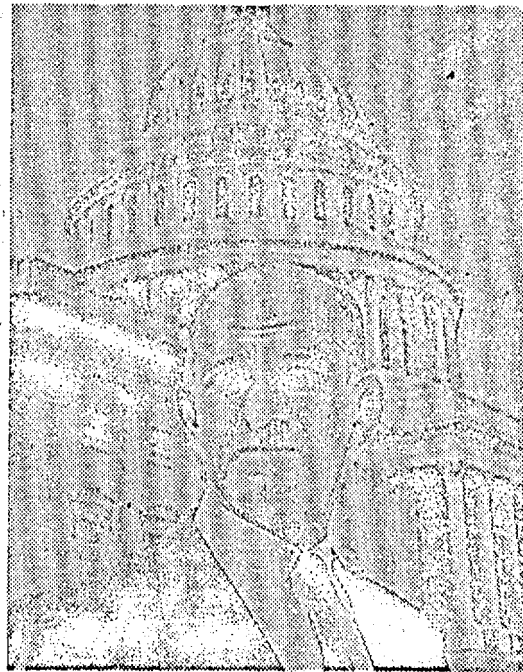
Wise Counsel And Plain Talk Again From Senator Fulbright

IT IS POSSIBLE that if there were no Senator Fulbright in the Senate he might have to be invented. Time and again he expresses the opinions of moderation—of what he likes to call “flexibility”—against all the zigs and zags of a foreign policy that seems to him to respond too much to mood and not enough to reason.

Senator Fulbright's observations on our intervention in the Dominican Republic could hardly be expected to bring the open approval of President Johnson. But if the President is willing to listen to counsels of moderation, and recent events indicate this willingness in increasing proportion, he must acknowledge the wisdom and justice of the Senator's criticism.

Mr. Fulbright attributes what he calls the “failure” of our Dominican intervention to faulty advice given the President. And in particular he warned against the tendency in this country to over-react against any suspicion of Communism in Latin American efforts for social change. This attitude, he feels, makes impossible any effective co-operation from this country in the social revolutions so necessary in nations to the south of us.

Mr. Fulbright, as he freely acknowledged, spoke from hindsight. But it was informed hindsight, gathered after thirteen hearings of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations held in the past two months. If it can help rechart our policies, not only in Latin America but toward the Western world, the Senator's warning will have great value. What he is trying to tell us, after all, is that the word Communist no longer sums up one monolithic evil to which we must react by instinct. The currents and divergences of Com-



Senator Fulbright

munism are as great in their way as the differences between democracies. All of them are not potentially deadly to us and many of the people who have been labelled Communist in struggling Latin American republics are home-grown revolutionaries struggling to right their own home-grown injustices.

If we are to intervene in every such situation because people the CIA calls Communists are in the forefront of rebel movements, we have already lost touch with the needs and the desperation which are pushing all Latin American toward change.